

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / A

25 DECEMBER 2025

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*see back page for relevant Mass*

### GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**R. And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father: Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

### GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

**COLLECT** *see back page for relevant Mass*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*see back page for relevant Mass*

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /



**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS:

*see back page for relevant Mass*

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I, II OR III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*see back page for relevant Mass*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*see back page for relevant Mass*

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

### SOLEMN BLESSING

P. May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

**R. Amen.**

P. May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

**R. Amen.**

P. And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

**R. Amen.**

P. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, **¶** and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## VIGIL MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Ex 16:6-7

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

*Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page*

### COLLECT

O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isa 62:1-5

### RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

### SECOND READING

Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia Alleluia!**

**Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:**

**The Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mt 1:1-25 (*Shorter form, 1:18-25*)

*Profession of Faith – see front page*

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Isa 40:5

**The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigour from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Solemn Blessing – see front page*

## MASS DURING THE NIGHT

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 2:7

**The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.**

*or*

**Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.**

*Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page*

### COLLECT

O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isa 9:1-7

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13

**R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

### SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:10-11

**Alleluia Alleluia!**

**Good news and great joy to all the world: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Lk 2:1-14

*Profession of Faith – see front page*

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 1:14

**The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Solemn Blessing – see front page*

## DAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Isa 9:5

**A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.**

*Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page*

### COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isa 52:7-10

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:1-6

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

### SECOND READING

Heb 1:1-6

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia Alleluia!**

**A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.**

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

*Profession of Faith – see front page*

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Ps 97:3

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Solemn Blessing – see front page*

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 747. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



**TODAY IS BORN  
OUR SAVIOUR,  
CHRIST THE LORD!**



# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## The Nativity of the Lord (A)

### 24/25 December 2025

**Parish Office:**  
Hours: Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: [doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:doncaster@cam.org.au)

Website: <https://www.stgregs.org.au/>

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Charles Balnaves

**Assistant Priest:** Anton Aseervathampillai

**Business Manager:** David Hii

**Parish Secretary: Mon & Wed:** Vera Arief  
Tue, Thurs & Fri: Luisa Yambao

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

**Sacristan:** Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

#### MASS TIMES:

**St Greg's:** Sat Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm  
Wed & Fri 9.00am

**CHILDREN LITURGY:** Sunday mornings @ 10.30am  
(Resumes 2nd Feb 2026)

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 9.30-11.00am (or by appointment or before/after any Mass but allow time)

**Anointing of the Sick** before/after any Mass or by appointment

**St Kevin's:** Sat Vigil 5.30pm; Sun 9.15am; Tue & Thurs 9.15am

**"Wash your hands" says my son to his daughter:  
sensible hygiene is essential at home and at church.**

#### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

**Epiphany of the Lord (A)**

Isa 60:1-6, Ps 71:1-2, 7-13, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

**BAPTISMS:** Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

**ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:**

Tel: (03) 9848 4483

Email: [principal@srgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@srgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:**

Email Margaret O'Donnell at [margaretodonnell@gmail.com](mailto:margaretodonnell@gmail.com)

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:**

Wednesdays at 9.45am in the church meeting room

Contact Paola Cheng 0415 280 216

**CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP:** 3rd Fridays of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm (Resumes Feb 2026)

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP:** 4th Fridays 7:15pm—9.30pm (Resumes Feb 2026)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE:** 3rd Mondays 7.00pm in the School Parish Room

**ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB:** Membership enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

**Please pray for:** Those who are **sick** at this time including Elmo Silvapulle, Anna M, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Phaisan Luethamphakdee, Priscilla Cheng, Marleen Liu, Amy Liu, Chantal Wong, Christopher Wong, Ximena Simian, Nik & Somaratna, Michael Mullens, Bob Ulehla, Carmel Aloi, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay and for those who died recently Angela Isabel Incorvaia



and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Yap Huat Goon, Lee Kim Heok

In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers

#### Words from the desk of the PP:

It took me some time to get started with these words till I was inspired to start with “Thank you.” Yes, as our Christmas celebrations begin, I think perhaps ... thank you is a good place to start.

At which point I realise of course how many I need to say “thank you” to.

First of course is thank you to God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) for gracing my life and the life of St Greg's and St Kevin's Parishes for whom I am called to be shepherd. During a meandering conversation on Monday evening, the group I was with got onto the subject of ‘passing on the faith’ - a complex matter indeed. It is easy to veer off into almost exclusively teaching the rules, the dogma, the catechism. It is easy to veer off into almost exclusively providing an experience of doing Good Deeds. Both things are needed but along with the teaching and the good deeds we need to be drawing people into having a personal experience of Jesus the Christ. It is this personal experience which grounds me, grounds each of us, in knowing God's work in our my lives and in the world around us. I know, deep inside, when I see God's hand at work in my life and (often) in the lives of others. I want that for you, and for everyone. One of my primary objectives as your Parish Priest is to try and ensure that I provide you with bounteous opportunities to have a personal experience and relationship with Jesus the Christ or to enrich your existing relationship with him.

Which leads me to another important areas of thanks. Thanks to the Staff of each parish (Nadia, Vera, Luisa, Ana, David, Frances, Bernadine), the Parish Pastoral Councils, the Parish Finance Councils, the Support Group, the various multitudinous ministries present in each parish and doubly the Sacristans, Liturgy and Music Ministries that help make sure that the Mass is provided in a meaningful way each Sunday and for the Major Seasons of Christmas and Easter. And this year thank you to the two ministries that are helping to intentionally spread the Good News and bring people into sharing the Good News: the Alpha team and the Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults Team (two teams that work across both parishes).

And a thank you to all the parents of the children and the children who have been Baptised, received Holy Communion for the first time, been Confirmed, or received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is not easy raising children. It is not each keeping a focus on faith and the practice of faith. Please: don't allow the challenges to get in the way of actually focussing on the practice of our Catholic faith.

And a thank you to our schools as the seek to provide a Catholic Education (no easy task in todays complex world).

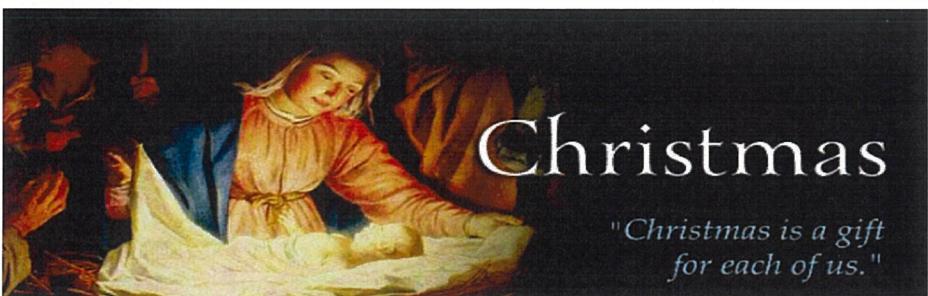
Finally, thank you to each of you: the broad sweep of parishioners in St Greg's and St Kevin's. I look at your faces each Sunday. In you I see—love of Christ, thirst to know more, desire to be full, conscious and active participants in the Word and the Eucharist and to take that love of Christ out to the world around you. Please keep coming. Please keep growing in faith by opening your hearts to Jesus' Please keep reaching out and inviting others to join us—simple invitations “would you like to come and see.” Often this would start with an invitation to join Alpha—a toe in the water of getting to know Jesus before approaching the glory of the Mass.

*God bless, Fr Charles.*



#### Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for Christmas:

For all those for whom the Christmas/New Year Holiday presents challenge or difficulty: that Christ's love and the grace of the Holy Spirit will support them.



**THIS WEEK**

Sat 6.00pm Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh  
 Sun 9.00am Philip Dunlop,  
 Sun 10.30am Ivonne Gunawan, Amanda Stefanovski  
 Sun 5.00pm Mary Toni Filippini, Enza Scaffidi  
**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Agnes Chee  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Marian See, Christopher Lim

**LECTORS**

Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh  
 Philip Dunlop,  
 Ivonne Gunawan, Amanda Stefanovski  
 Mary Toni Filippini, Enza Scaffidi  
**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Agnes Chee  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Marian See, Christopher Lim

**NEXT WEEK 3/4 Jan**

**LECTORS**  
 Sat 6.00pm Noel & Cathy McClelland  
 Sun 9.00am Jacqueline Rogers, Philip Dunlop  
 Sun 10.30am Erin Djukiadmojo, Sauro Antonelli  
 Sun 5.00pm Jane Ma, Gerard O'Donnell  
**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Mary Wilson  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Philip Dunlop, Greg Lesmana

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Noel & Cathy McClelland  
 Katica Puhaj  
 Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina  
 Dot Haynes, Seleana Ng  
**MORNING TEA:** N/A

**FLOWERS:** Irene Dharmawan

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell  
 Margaret Wallace  
 Nuccia La Rocca, Behnaz Behmandi, Lilian Antonelli  
 Alfred Lee, Margaret O'Donnell

**FLOWERS:** Geraldina Donato

For those who are Coeliac, we can provide low gluten (<20 pmm) hosts or a separate chalice. Please let the priest or sacristan know your need.

We invite all parishioners to take note Mass timetable:

**Feast of the Holy Family**

27 December – 6:00 PM

28 December – 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:00 PM

**New Year's Eve Mass** – 31 December at 6:00 PM**New Year's Day Mass** – 1 January at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available in the Stewardship sets of envelopes and on the seats / in the gathering space.

This offering supplements your weekly giving to the presbytery in this special season. This offering directly supports our clergy in the following ways: 5% is allocated to the Archbishop, 12.5% helps support priests in underfunded parishes, another 12.5% supports retired and ill priests. The remainder covers essential expenses such as the lease and upkeep of the priest's car, operational costs of the presbytery, hospitality, and stipends for priests who provide supply when our priests are not available. Thank you for your generosity.

**St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School**

For School Tours and Open Days visit [sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au](http://sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Facilities:** The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made:

[St.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com](mailto:St.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com)

Call (03) 9848 4483 [principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)



Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

**Ways of Giving –**

**Thank you for your generosity and continuous support!**

**Scan and Give**

Scan this code with your phone camera and donate directly to our church. Choose Payment for Church Donations. It's simple and secure.

**Give by Contactless**

Use our Eftpos Machine located in the church Narthex. You can donate with: a debit/credit card. It's simple and secure.

**Children's Liturgy**

Please note that Children's Liturgy will be on break from Sunday, 28th of December. We will resume on Sunday, 2nd of February. We thank our children, parents, and volunteers for their continued support and look forward to welcoming everyone back in February.

Alpha will begin on the 28th January at 6.30PM.

For more info or to register please contact:  
[Doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:Doncaster@cam.org.au) or  
[Templestowe@cam.org.au](mailto:Templestowe@cam.org.au)

**Lourdes Day Mass**

Parishioners are invited to attend the annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 14th February 2026 at 10.30am. This is a special occasion to pray for our sick, infirm and elderly and those who care for them. The principal celebrant at the Mass will be His Grace, Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

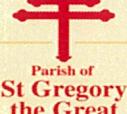
Tell your friends about the Mass, especially those who aren't well. In fact, bring them along. A poster about the Mass is on display in the narthex of the Church.

**Sacramental Preparation Classes**

Catholic children who do not attend our parish school are invited to participate in programs to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.

For further information parents may contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or by email on [margaretodonnel@gmail.com](mailto:margaretodonnel@gmail.com) There will be an information session on Tuesday, 17th February at 4.30pm in St Gregory's Parish Church. Specific details for celebrating each sacrament will be made available at that meeting.

Please bring this information to the attention of any families you know who may wish to avail of this opportunity.

**Monthly****YOUTH MASS**

Youth and Young Adults led Mass

**EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5PM**

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**All are Welcome**

**More information:**

St Gregory the Great Parish

71 Williamson's Rd, Doncaster

03 9412 8425 [Doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:Doncaster@cam.org.au)

[stgregs.org.au](http://stgregs.org.au)

